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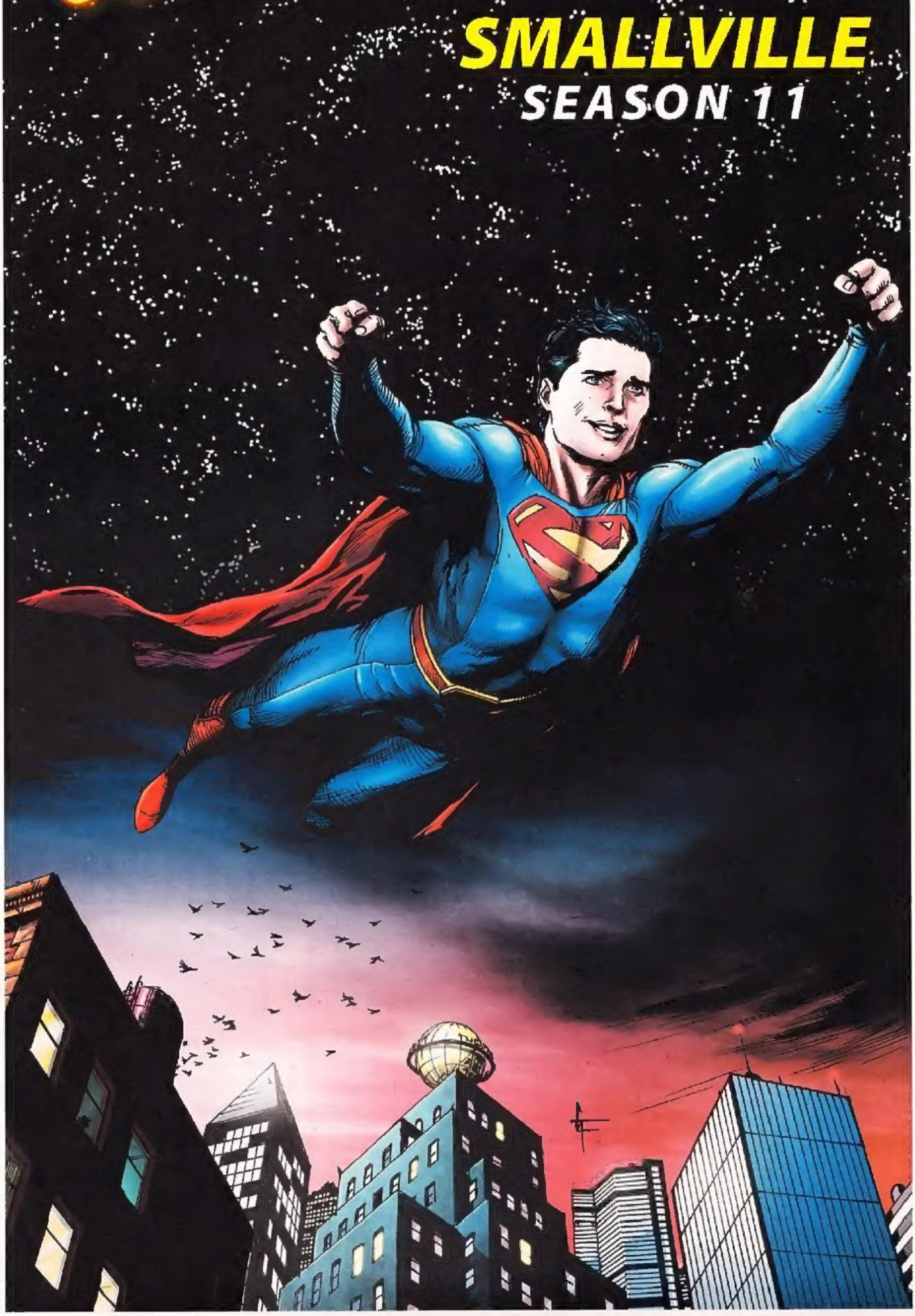
COMIC SHOP NEWS™

SMALLVILLE SEASON 11



It's a Smallville After All!

Last year, ***Smallville*** came to an end after ten seasons; in the final episode, viewers witness Clark Kent's transition from the Blur to Superman as he donned the familiar costume for the first time. A familiar super-theme played, and the series came to an end.

Well, it came to an end on *television*, at least. But as fans of ***Buffy*** and ***Dollhouse*** and ***Angel*** and ***Serenity/Firefly*** can attest, cancelled television series sometimes find new life in comic books...

That's just what's happening to ***Smallville.*** This month, DC will reveal what happened *after* the final episode of the CW series as they launch ***Smallville Season 11,*** courtesy of writer *Bryan Q. Miller* and artist *Pere Perez.*

Miller explained how he landed the assignment of continuing the series in comics form. "When *Geoff Johns* blew through town to break 'Booster,' I asked if he thought that keeping the show alive as a comic was a good idea. At the time, DC wasn't interested. A few months later, very out of the blue, I got a call asking if I was still interested. I was. A few months after that, pencil went to paper."

As fans of the series know, ***Smallville*** wasn't just another Superman story: it was a complex, interwoven series that developed its own distinctive mythos, complete with characters such as Chloe Sullivan and Tess Mercer who were created especially for the series. It also elevated Oliver Queen into a pivotal role in the Superman mythos, and offered intriguing new looks at such characters as Aquaman, the Martian Manhunter, Hawkman, the Justice Society, the Legion of Super-Heroes, Doomsday, and General Zod, to name a few. How much of that will carry over to the comic book? "The comic is a *direct* continuation of a decade of ***Smallville*** mythology," Miller said. "As with every new season, there's something that occurred in ***Season 10*** that has direct bearing on the mythos for ***Season 11.***

"Characters old and new will all appear in the pages of ***Smallville Season 11***. For instance, Episode 3 has a pretty big return for a hero we haven't seen in a few years. Heroes and villains will pop in for guest spots and team-ups, but the focus is mainly on Clark as Superman, and all that his first year in the cape entails."

Was there ever any talk of an eleventh season for the TV series, or is Miller creating this entirely on his own without any guidance? "With the exception of a piece of an idea here or there, I am now shouldering work once done by an entire staff," Miller said. "It can be intimidating. *Very* intimidating."

How long after the final televised episode does ***Smallville Season 11*** begin? "Though there was a time jump to seven years after Clark first donned the cape in the Finale, ***Season 11*** starts six months into that seven years, right after Clark pushed Apokolips out of orbit and saved Air Force One," Miller said. "The ***Season 11*** premiere is entitled 'Guardian.' There isn't much I can say about it, though, without giving anything away. Things happen in space. Hank Henshaw arrives at one point. Big punches. Helicopters and bullets. Romance. Sexy Lexy."

Fans who miss Chloe (who rose to a central role in the Superman mythology—a pretty impressive addition for a character who had no comic book analogue!) will be pleased to know that not only is she still married to Oliver Queen in ***Smallville Season 11,*** but "Ollie and Chloe are our way in to the larger threat for the Season."

And what about Tess Mercer, the sister of Lex Luthor? Will she return in any capacity? "I *love* Tess," Miller said. "She's easily been my favorite lady to write. She's tough as nails, but also very vulnerable. As many may know, Tess was murdered in the finale [although in ***Smallville,*** as in comics, death can be far less than permanent]. Her presence—or lack thereof—will *not* go unnoticed by our major players." Will any elements of the death and resurrection of Lex Luthor play a part in ***Season 11?*** "Absolutely," Miller said. "We aren't pretending it didn't happen. He was dead. He was rebuilt. He has no memory of his former life. But he's sitting on top of a pile of money and *just* can't bring himself to trust Superman... for whatever reason. Wackiness ensues."

The biggest change in ***Season 11*** is that Clark now wears the iconic costume. Is the public aware that the former Blur, hero of Metropolis is now Superman? "The Blur burned his S-shield all over town in ***Season 9,"*** Miller said. "Superman wears that very same S on his chest. I think it's hard for people *not* to draw that conclusion," Miller said with a laugh.

Since the series retains the ***Smallville*** name, will Clark's Smallville past play a role in the story Did he and Lois truly sell the farmhouse? Will they ever go back to Smallville, or is their life centered in Metropolis now? "The apartment they started renting towards the end of the series is their home base now," Miller replied. "We'll cover the farm eventually, but we're living in the big city now.That isn't to say that things won't still be afoot out in the corn, however..."

Fans should feel right at home with the look of ***Smallville,*** as DC has the right to use character likenesses, so "we're getting as close as we can," Miller said. "Pere's doing a great job!"

Will Miller avoid the "kryptonite-of-the-week" scenario that plagued ***Smallville*** in its earlier seasons? "So much so that we make it almost twenty weeks without meteor rock *entirely,"* Miller said proudly.

So are there any characters or concepts from DC continuity that are *verboten* in the ***Smallville?*** (The television series was never able to include Batman or Wonder Woman due to pre-existing film/television licensing arrangements, although the series was able to allude to both characters at one point.) "Not so far—knock on wood," Miller said. "The big thing for me is just that whatever the character/concept is, that they some how make sense within the reality defined by the show. The later season opened that reality up a bit, so that helps."

Has Miller planned this out as if it were a TV season, building to a big ending that will then pave the way for a ***Smallville Season 12***—or does he see ***Smallville Season 11*** as an ongoing season/series? "The first act of the entire season is written," Miller said. "I don't know how many episodes we'll be doing, but I know what the grand finale is. So I've got a road map of a sort. As far as ***Season 12*** goes—let's all just go out and buy the hell out of ***Season 11!"***

Smallville Season 11 #1, a $3.99 48-page comic, is scheduled for May 2nd release.

by Cliff Biggers

CSNsider

•In this issue's ***Coming Comics*** segment, we tell you about DC's new ***National Comics*** title, which features standalone tales presenting New 52 versions of some of DC's many as-yet-undeveloped-for-New-52 heroes, beginning with ***Kid Eternity.*** The three projects following that will be ***Madame X,*** by *Rob Williams & Trevor Hairsine;* ***Rose and Thorn,*** by *Tom Taylor & Neil Google;* and ***Looker*** by *Ian Edginton & Mike S. Miller.*

•Marvel has confirmed what we've all suspected for several weeks: the upcoming ***Spider-Men*** series will indeed chronicle the first Ultimate/616 crossover as the Marvel Universe Spider-Man meets Miles Morales, Ultimate Spider-Man. "This year is the 50th anniversary of Spider-Man and we're so happy that the stars aligned for us to tell a Spider-Man story that nobody has ever seen before," writer *Brian Bendis* said. "It's an honor and a privilege to present both this story and these characters to fans on such an auspicious occasion. The work *Sara [Pichelli]* has done on Spider-Men is a step above the already high standard that she has set for herself on our ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man*** series. For me, this is a celebration of the best character in mainstream comics and some of the best art mainstream comics has to offer."

•Fan-favorite writer *Jeff Lemire* has a new original graphic novel, ***The Underwater Welder,*** coming up in August. Lemire describes the story as "a really emotional ***Twilight Zone*** episode" that deals with "this guy who works off a deep-sea rig off the coast of a small coastal town... And then one day, when he goes down and comes back up, the world is a completely different place. Something Changed while he was down there..."

•IDW has a ***Danger Girl/GI Joe*** crossover miniseries in the works.

•This fall, Legendary Comics will launch the four-issue ***Tower Chronicles*** series by *Matt Wagner & Simon Bisley,* based on a concept by *Thomas Tull,* with a first issue cover by *Jim Lee.* Legendary editor *Bob Schreck* describes the protagonist, Tower, as "a supernatural bounty hunter who has an elite client list."

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

•Not too long ago, Archie and the Riverdale gang met Kiss; this winter, readers will see ***Archie Vs. Kiss,*** according to a teaser from Archie Comics.

Lone Ranger Gets In the Spirit

The Lone Ranger has traditionally faced off against real-world adversaries like Butch Cavendish and his hired guns, but in ***Lone Ranger: Snake of Iron,*** the Lone Ranger and Tonto must confront a very different sort of threat as the Spirit Horse returns to the plains.

Writer *Chuck Dixon* offered a little background on the Spirit Horse. "The Spirit Horse is a mythic figure common in Native American lore in which disembodied spirits, ghosts and animistic totems of worship play a big part," Dixon said. "In our story, a group of Kiowa have jumped the reservations in Oklahoma because the re-appearance of the Spirit Horse which they see as a sign to return to the warpath. What the Spirit Horse turns out to be is one of the big surprises in the first issue. Those knowledgeable in western history may have already guessed."

Does the Spirit Horse's reappearance lead to any conflict between Lone Ranger and Tonto? "At the start of our story, the two faithful companions are separated by several hundred miles," Dixon said. "This story brings them together again and it remains to be seen if their differences have been resolved. But it *will* be the Spirit Horse who brings them together."

The Kiowa aren't often associated with the Lone Ranger; how did they become a part of th story? "I wanted to use the Kiowa for a number of reasons," Dixon explained. "Mostly because the Kiowa don't get the kind of attention that other tribes like the Comanche and Apache and Sioux get. But they were a large and influential tribe and ranged from the Dakotas to central Texas and beyond. The location of their reservations in Oklahoma drew me to them because I wanted to keep the action in Texas but move it north to colder parts of the Lone Star State."

If the story has a very traditional Western feel, that's no accident. "I've always been suspicious of 'revisionist' Westerns or attempts to reinvent the genre. There's nothing wrong with a good old shoot-'em-up, blazing sixguns kind of story," Dixon said. "The Western remains popular all over the world because it presents the classic setting of men making their own rules in a hostile land. Its allure is eternal. Half-hearted, cynical attempts to make these stories more relevant are misguided. The Western is an elegant and flexible genre that can encompass any approach from *Roy Rogers* to *Clint Eastwood* with equal success. Yeah, this is a classic western story, buckaroos!"

Westerns have been a tough sell in comics since the 1950s, haven't they? "I'd like to argue with that," Dixon replied. "Back when comics were sold on the newsstands, Western comics were reliable sellers all the way into the 70s. Marvel had a number of new and reprint comics that ran up into triple digits before fading away. ***Jonah Hex*** was one of the few sales highlights at DC Comics in the 70s and often outsold their superhero titles. Even lowly Charlton kept putting out new Western comics along with their horror titles.

"The superheroes killed the Western characters here in America. That's sad, because Western comics are still very popular everywhere else in the world. ***Lucky Luke, Tex, Blueberry*** and ***Durango*** continue to have an audience everywhere *but* here.

"There are readers who will read a western comic. The trouble is to reach them."

Is it safe to assume that Dixon is a Western fan? "Let me explain it to you this way: in my home theater I have two multi-disc DVD players that hold 400 discs each. They're *both* filled with Westerns and only Westerns.

"It's my favorite genre hands down, and the one I've had the least opportunity to dabble in."

Lone Ranger: Snake of Iron marks the first time that Dynamite has offered two Lone Ranger titles in one month; why now? "This is the first time we've ever had two Lone Ranger books, I believe, because before now, we didn't have a second story to tell that we felt the fans would enjoy," publisher *Nick Barrucci* said. "*Brett Matthews* set the bar high; *Ande Parks* took it to a great level with ***Lone Ranger: The Death of Zorro;*** and now the ongoing series is being extremely well received.

"Chuck is a natural for the Lone Ranger. We've wanted to work with him for a while, and he had the right pitch that we wanted tackle. The 'problem' with Chuck is that he didn't have the time until now to tell the story he wanted tell. We could have rushed out a ***Lone Ranger*** story before this but we choose not to—and I think that fans will appreciate it."

Lone Ranger: Snake of Iron #1, a $3.99 comic by *Chuck Dixon & Esteve Polls* with cover art by *Dennis Calero,* is slated for July release.

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Coming Comics— DC in June

Before Watchmen continues to develop with the release of ***Before Watchmen: Ozymandias #1*** by *Len Wein & Jae Lee.* June's other ***Before Watchmen*** titles include ***Minutemen #2*** by *Darwyn Cooke;* ***Silk Spectre*** by *Darwyn Cooke & Amanda Conner;* and ***Comedian #2*** by *Brian Azzarello & J.G. Jones.* Each issue will also include a ***Crimson Corsair*** backup tale by *Len Wein* and artist *John Higgins.*

Lois Lane continues her investigation into the mystery of Earth's *first* Superman in ***Action Comics #11*** by *Grant Morrison, Rags Morales, & Rick Bryant.* And what's this about Superman's *new* secret identity? And in the backup story, *Sholly Fish & Brad Walker* reveal where the pre-costume Superman got all those S t-shirts?

Jonah Hex and Tallulah Black face the Lord of Assassins' steam-powered death machine in ***All-Star Western #11*** by *Justin Gray, Jimmy Palmiotti, & Moritat.* This issue's backup story introduces Terrence 13.

Jeff Lemire & Steve Pugh present the stunning conclusion to "Extinction Is Forever" in ***Animal Man #11.***

Aquaman and The Others catch up with Black Manta – but are they really united as a team? Find out in ***Aquaman #11*** by *Geoff Johns, Ivan Reis, & Joe Prado.*

Batgirl takes on a trio of new foes in *Gail Simone, Ardian Syaf, & Vicente Cifuentes'* ***Batgirl #11,*** which continues the introduction of Batgirl's deadliest adversary yet, Knightfall!

Scott Snyder, James Tynion IV, Greg Capullo, & Jonathan Glapion present the conclusion to "The Court of Owls" in ***Batman #11.***

Damian sets out to defeat each and every Robin in ***Batman and Robin #11*** by *Peter Tomasi, Patrick Gleason, & Mick Gray...* and he starts with Red Hood!

Matches Malone makes his New 52 debut in ***Batman Incorporated #3*** by *Grant Morrison & Chris Burnham,* as Batman uses every means at his disposal to fine out who's trying to kill Damian.

Scarecrow makes a bold move against Batman, using Commissioner Gordon as bait, in ***Batman: The Dark Knight #11*** by *Gregg Hurwitz, David Finch, & Richard Friend.*

Nightwing guest-stars in ***Batwing #11*** by *Judd Winick, Marcus To, & Ryan Winn,* as Batwing faces off against the deadly Beijing gangster dragon known as Long!

Batwoman, Chase, and the D.E.O. battle Gotham City's Urban Legends in hope of finding the missing children in ***Batwoman #11*** by *J.H. Williams III, W. Haden Blackman, & Trevor McCarthy.*

Poison Ivy.. the savior of the Green? Find out what's going on in ***Birds of Prey #11*** by *Duane Swierczynski, Travel Foreman, & Jeff Huet*—and don't miss this issue's shock ending!

Superfail continues its smear campaign against Beetle in ***Blue Beetle #11*** by *Tony Bedard & Ig Guara*—and Booster Gold's the only hero to come to Beetle's defense... or is it just a trap?

Captain Atom regains his human appearance in ***Captain Atom #11*** by *J.T. Krull & Freddie E. Williams II*—but what has he done to himself to make this transformation possible?

Catwoman and her new partner Spark take their relationship to a very intimate level in ***Catwoman #11*** by *Judd Winick & Guillem March.*

Kass is forced to make the ultimate choice between two killers in *James Robinson & Bernard Chang's* ***DC Universe Presents #11***—and her father, Vandal Savage, may be the worst of them.

Deathstroke races to find the crashed Starpoint cruiser in *Rob Liefeld's* ***Deathstroke #11.***

The dark magic of Camelot's ruins brings out the team's monstrous natures in ***Demon Knights #11*** by *Paul Cornell, Diogenes neves, & Oclair Albert.*

The connection between Hypnotic and the attacks on Wayne Enterprises is revealed in ***Detective Comics #11*** by *Tony S. Daniel, Ed Benes, & Rob Hunter.* This issue also features a Two-Face backup story.

Nelson gains an unlikely ally in *China Mieville & Mateus Santolouco's* ***Dial H #3,*** just as his career as a hero looks like it might be over before it's begun. Witness the origin of the latest wielder of the H dial in this offbeat series.

In ***Earth 2 #3,*** *James Robinson, Nicola Scott, & Trevor Scott* present the all-new origin of Alan Scott, Green Lantern—and it's unlike any GL origin that's come before! This issue also features the debut of the new Hawkgirl.

Witness the New 52 debut of Heat Wave in ***The Flash #11*** by *Francis Manapul & Brian Buccellato.*

In ***Frankenstein, Agent of SHADE #11*** by *Matt Kindt, Alberto Ponticelli, & Wayne Faucher,* Frankenstein and Nina are swallowed by the Leviathan, a whale-like beast that contains an entire city inside of it. Luckily this is where they need to be to track down the S.H.A.D.E. mole!

Jason and Firehawk head to Russia in ***The Fury of Firestorm: The Nuclear Men #11*** by *Ethan Van Sciver, Joe Harris, Yildiray Cinar, & Norm Rapmund*—and once they get there, they discover the secret origin of Pozhar! Meanwhile, Ronnie, Rakshasa, & Pozhar head to Pakistan in search of the rogue threat Ashra Khan.

The Unknown Soldier and his newfound super powers head to Pakistan in search of chemical weapons—and retribution—in ***GI Combat #3,*** which also presents a new tale of modern warfare versus prehistoric horror in "The War That Time Forgot."

In *Ann Nocenti & Harvey Tolibao's* ***Green Arrow #11,*** Oliver Queen returns to action in Seattle, only to discover that the city has fallen into the gutters during his absence.

Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy kick off "The Revenge of Black Hand" in ***Green Lantern #11***—and DC promises that this arc will have the most shocking conclusion of any *Geoff Johns GL* storyline thus far!

The Green Lanterns learn that their troubles are just beginning in ***Green Lantern Corps #11*** by *Peter Tomasi, Fernando Pasarin, & Scott Hanna.* A new threat is coming for the Corps...and they might be powerless to save themselves!

Larfleeze takes on the New Guardians in ***Green Lantern: New Guardians #11*** by *Tony Bedard, Tyler Kirkham, & Batt.* This issue also reveals who's been orchestrating events since issue #1—and what trouble it means for the future of the DC universe.

Grifter faces off against the powerful Daemonite known as Synge in ***Grifter #11*** by *Rob Liefeld, Frank Tieri, Scott Clark, & Dave Beaty...* and Deathblow and Cheshire tag along for the ride!

What happens when a zombie bites a vampire? What happens when a vampire turns a zombie? Find out all the gory details in ***I, Vampire #11*** by *Joshua Hale Fialkov & Andrea Sorrentino.*

Batman, Cyborg, and Aquaman battle Element woman in ***Justice League #11,*** featuring "The Villain's Journey" part 3 by *Geoff Johns, Jim Lee, & Scott Williams.* This issue also continues the origin of Shazam! by *Geoff Johns & Gary Frank.*

The secrets of the Black Room are revealed in *Jeff Lemire & Mikel Janin's* ***Justice League Dark #11***—and John Constantine discovers the location of one of the DC Universe's most secret artifacts.

The team is defeated at the hands of the Burners in ***Justice League International #11*** by *Dan Jurgens, Aaron Lopresti, & Matt Ryan*—and not everyone will escape alive!

In *Paul Levitz & Frances Portela's* ***Legion of Super-Heroes #11,*** Cosmic Boy threatens Mon-El's leadership if he doesn't act immediately to save not only Brainiac and Dream Girl, but also the outclassed squad who've gone to rescue them.

The team must decide how to stop their future from being destroyed by their actions in the present in *Tom DeFalco & Pete Woods'* ***Legion Lost #11.***

Jeff Lemire & Cully Hamner bring a contemporary approach to the hero we used to know as Kid Eternity in ***National Comics: Eternity #1,*** which launches a series of standalone comics featuring unique takes on classic characters. Can introverted medical examiner Kid Eternity solve a deadly crime in just 24 hours?

Nightwing faces off against Paragon, the leader of an anti-Gotham group, in ***Nightwing #11*** by *Kyle Higgins, Eddy Barrows, Ruy Jose, & Eber Ferreira.*

Brother Blood drops in on the team in *Howard Mackie, Ian Churchill, & Norm Rapmund's* ***Ravagers #3***—but it's not a friendly visit!

The Outlaws take on Blackfire and her new allies, the Blight, in ***Red Hood & the Outlaws #11*** by *Scott Lobdell & Kenneth Rocafort.*

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THE NEW 52!

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GRAPHIC NOVELS RELEASE SCHEDULE

MAY

- Animal Man Vol 1: The Hunt
- Batman Vol 1: The Court of Owls
- Catwoman Vol 1: The Game
- Green Arrow Vol 1: The Midas Touch
- Green Lantern Vol 1: Sinestro
- Justice League International Vol 1: The Signal Masters
- Justice League Vol 1: Origin
- Stormwatch Vol 1: The Dark Side
- Wonder Woman Vol 1: Blood

JUNE

- Batman: Detective Comics Vol 1: Faces of Death
- Batwoman Vol 1: Hydrology
- Frankenstein Agent of S.H.A.D.E. Vol 1: War of The Monsters
- Legion of Super-Heroes Vol 1: Hostile World
- Mister Terrific Vol 1: Mind Games
- Red Lanterns Vol 1: Blood and Rage
- Static Shock Vol 1: Supercharged

JULY

- Batgirl Vol 1: The Darkest Reflection
- Batwing Vol 1: The Lost Kingdom
- Batman and Robin Vol 1: Born to Kill
- Demon Knights Vol 1: Seven Against the Dark
- Grifter Vol 1: Most Wanted
- Men of War Vol 1: Uneasy Company
- Suicide Squad Vol 1: Kicked in the Teeth

AUGUST

- Deathstroke Vol 1: Legacy
- Hawk and Dove Vol 1: First Strikes
- O.M.A.C. Vol 1: Omactivate!
- Resurrection Man Vol 1: Dead Again
- Superman: Action Comics Vol 1: Superman and The Men of Steel
- Superboy Vol 1: Incubation
- Swamp Thing Vol 1: Raise Them Bones

SEPTEMBER

- Aquaman Vol 1: The Trench
- Birds of Prey Vol 1: Trouble in Mind
- The Fury of Firestorm: The Nuclear Men Vol 1: God Particle
- Green Lantern Corps Vol 1: Fearsome
- Legion Lost Vol 1: Run from Tomorrow
- Teen Titans Vol 1: It's Our Right to Fight
- Voodoo Vol 1: What Lies Beneath

OCTOBER

- All-Star Western Vol 1: Guns and Gotham
- Batman: The Dark Knight Vol 1: Knight Terrors
- Green Lantern: New Guardians Vol 1: The Ring Bearer
- I, Vampire Vol 1: Tainted Love
- Justice League Dark Vol 1: In the Dark
- Nightwing Vol 1: Traps and Trapezes
- The Savage Hawkman Vol 1: Darkness Rising
- Supergirl Vol 1: The Last Daughter of Krypton

NOVEMBER

- Blackhawks Vol 1: The Great Leap Forward
- Blue Beetle Vol 1: Metamorphosis
- Captain Atom Vol 1: Evolution
- DC Universe Presents Vol 1 Featuring Deadman & Challengers of the Unknown
- The Flash Vol 1: Move Forward
- Red Hood and The Outlaws Vol 1: Redemption
- Superman Vol 1: What Price Tomorrow?

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SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

I'LL CHANGE BACK TO PETER PARKER HERE ON THE ROOF—
—SO I CAN BE WITH MJ WHEN SHE WAKES UP.
BUT I WONDER HOW THOR AND SIF ARE DOING BACK IN ASGARD?
DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELF, MORTAL...
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-16
WHEN WE STAND UNITED, NONE CAN DEFEAT US!
YOU'RE BACK!
THOR! SIF! WHY HAVE YOU RETURNED TO EARTH?
YOU ERR, WEB-WEAVER. WE SPEAK TO YOU FROM ASGARD—
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-17
—TO SAY THAT ALL IS WELL ONCE MORE IN THE REALM ETERNAL!
MAN, HOW I LOVE A HAPPY ENDING!
NOW, FARE THEE WELL, STRANGE COSTUMED HUMAN!
AND MAY THY LADY, TOO, FARE WELL.
THEY KNOW MJ'S MY WIFE!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-18
AW, DID I THINK I COULD KID A COUPLE OF ASGARDIAN IMMORTALS?
THEY SAW RIGHT THROUGH ME!
I'LL JUST LOOK IN ON MJ QUIETLY WHILE SHE'S SLEEPING...
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-19
HI, TIGER! I WAS HOPING YOU'D SHOW!
DIDN'T WANNA BOTHER YOU! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO REST!
CAN'T, HONEY! I'M A STAR NOW!
AND THE SHOW MUST GO ON!
IT'S AMAZING! YOUR WIFE SEEMS POSITIVELY ENERGIZED NOW.
IT'S BECAUSE SHE RECEIVED THE ESSENCE OF A GODDESS!
PARDON ME?
PAY HIM NO MIND, DOCTOR.
HE HASN'T BEEN HIMSELF ALL EVENING.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-20
YOUR WIFE WILL BE JUST FINE, MR. PARKER.
I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE, DOCTOR.
NO NEED TO. SHE'S THANKED ME—VERY GENEROUSLY!
?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-21
SHE GAVE ME TWO TICKETS TO SEE HER HIT PLAY!
THAT'S MY GAL!!
ORCHESTRA SEAT

Atrocitus continues his lone search for Abysmus in ***Red Lanterns #11*** by *Peter Milligan & Miguel Sepulveda*, while Red Lantern Bleez confronts Star Sapphire Fatality.

Mitch & Kim embark on a desperate search for the Transhuman in ***Resurrection Man #11*** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Jesus Saiz.*

Rob Liefeld & Mark Poulton introduce St. Bastion in ***Savage Hawkman #11***—and he'll stop at nothing to learn the secrets of the scrolls that Carter Hall revealed in #9!

The Engineer takes center stage in ***Stormwatch #11*** by *Peter Milligan, Ignacio Calero, & Sean Parsons.* There is a shadow organization as old as Stormwatch... but who are they and what secrets do they hold?

The Squad finally confronts Basilisk head-on in ***Suicide Squad #11*** by *Adam Glass & Fernando Dagnino.*

Superboy relocates to New York City in ***Superboy #11*** by *Scott Lobdell, R.B. Silva, & Rob Lean,* which also guest-stars ***Teen Titans*** teammate Bunker.

Michael Green, Mike Johnson, & Mahmud Asrar chronicle Supergirl's first date in ***Supergirl #11***... and what better time is there for a new villain to attack Supergirl?

A powerful and violent being from a different dimension has been mistakenly brought to Earth—and it's up to Superman to stop it in ***Superman #11*** by *Dan Jurgens & Jesus Merino.* This issue also reveals the true nature of Superman's costume.

Scott Snyder & Marco Rudy reveal Anton Arcane's role in the mythology of The Rot in ***Swamp Thing #11***—and you won't want to miss the final page of this issue!

Wonder Girl's past is revealed in ***Teen Titans #11*** by *Scott Lobdell, Brett Booth, & Norm Rapmund.*

Pris is forced to team up with Voodoo to survive an onslaught of mutated Daemonites in ***Voodoo #11*** by *Josh Williamson & Sami Basri.*

Apollo makes his play for Zeus's throne in ***Wonder Woman #11*** by *Brian Azzarello & Cliff Chiang*... and Wonder Woman is the last obstacle in his way!

In ***Worlds' Finest #3*** by *Paul Levitz, George Pérez, Scott Koblish, & Kevin Maguire,* Huntress and Power Girl begin trying to track the "invader" who came through the Boom Tube from Earth 2 with them—and more is revealed about the first five years the heroines spent stranded on our Earth.

The Judas Coin HC, a centuries-spanning original graphic novel from legendary writer/artist *Walter Simonson,* shows how one of the silver coins Judas was paid to betray Jesus has had an impact on the DC Universe, with chapters co-starring The Golden Gladiator (73 AD), The Viking Prince (1000 AD), Captain Fear (1720 AD), and Bat Lash (1881 AD). In the centerpiece of the book, Batman faces Two-Face in an epic, present-day battle before the story blasts into the future for a final chapter set in the year 2087 starring Manhunter 2070.

Harley Quinn's jealous over the Joker's new best buddy in ***Batman: Arkham Unhinged #4.***

Batman scrambles to thwart simultaneous attacks by the Joker in ***Batman Beyond Unlimited #6.*** In the second story, secrets are revealed on Apokolips as the League prepares for all-out war with Kobra.

The Shade learns the truth behind his family's plot to kill him in ***The Shade #10*** by *James Robinson& Frazer Irving.* His powers cancelled out, held captive by an ancient cult, the Shade must devise a way to escape and prevent a terrorist attack!

Oliver and Chloe set out on a hunt in the heartland in ***Smallville Season 11 #3*** by *Bryan Q. Miller & Pere Perez.*

Skeletor has apparently succeeded in his scheme to rule Eternia in ***He-Man and the Masters of the Universe #1*** by *James Robinson, Philip Tan, & Ruy Jose.* Can

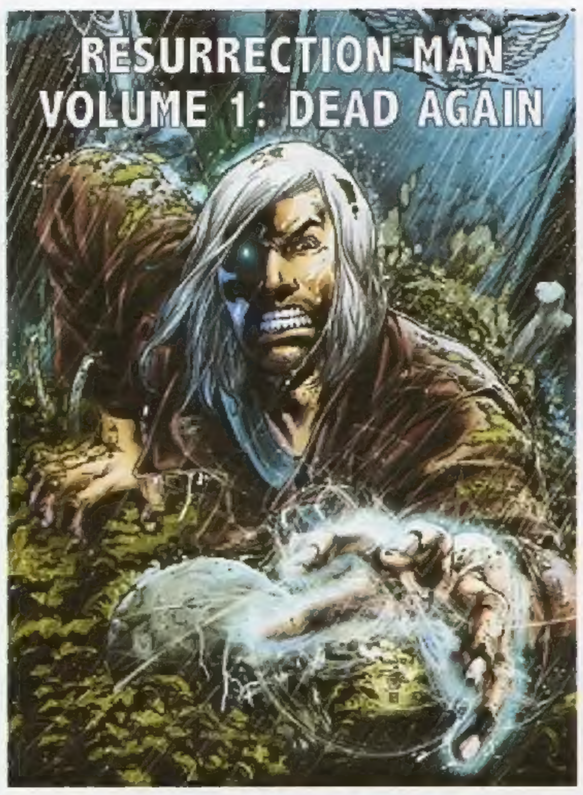
Adam and the Masters of the Universe remember what Eternia was like in time to save it?

Micky Neilson & Sean Galloway introduce the Pandaren, one of the most beloved and mysterious races of them all, in ***World of Warcraft: Pearl of Pandaria HC,*** an original graphic novel.Meanwhile, Lois is caught in the crossfire as Superman confronts Lex...

DC collected editions (advance solicited for August and September release) include:

- ***Absolute Final Crisis HC,*** collecting the unforgettable *Grant Morrison* event in a single oversized volume. Not only does this issue include ***Final Crisis #s 1-7, Final Crisis: Submit #1, Final Crisis: Superman Beyond #s 1 & 2, The Final Crisis Sketchbook, Final Crisis #1 Director's Cut,*** and ***Batman #s 682-683,*** as well as seven new story pages by Morrison and artist *Doug Mahnke.*
- ***The All-New Batman: The Brave and the Bold—Help Wanted TP,*** collecting ***All-New Batman: The Brave & The Bold #s 7-12.***
- ***Aquaman Volume 1: The Trench HC,*** collecting ***Aquaman #s 1-6.***
- ***Batman: The Dark Knight Archives Volume 8 HC,*** collecting ***Batman #s 32-37.***
- ***Batman: The Streets of Gotham—House of Hush TP,*** collecting ***Streets of Gotham #s 12-14 & 16-20.***
- ***Batman: No Man's Land Volume 3 TP (New Edition),*** a 480-page compendium of tales from ***Batman, Shadow of the Bat, Legends of the Dark Knight, Robin, Azrael*** and more.

- ***Batman: Odyssey HC,*** collecting all 13 issues of the *Neal Adams* adventure in a single volume.
- ***DC Comics Presents Wonder Woman Adventures #1,*** collecting a quartet of ***Adventures in the DCU*** issues.
- ***DC Universe Online Legends Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***Online Legends #s 16-26.***
- ***Deathstroke Volume 1: Legacy TP,*** collecting ***Deathstroke #s 1-8.***
- ***The Flash Chronicles Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***The Flash #s 113-118.***
- ***Green Lantern/Green Arrow TP,*** collecting the entirety of the *Dennis O'Neil-Neal Adams* run as presented in ***Green Lantern #s 76-87 & 89*** and ***The Flash #s 217-219 & 226.***
- ***Green Lantern Corps Volume 1: Fearsome HC,*** collecting ***Green Lantern Corps #s 1-7.***
- ***Hawk and Dove Volume 1: First Strikes TP,*** collecting ***Hawk & Dove #s 1-8.***
- ***Hitman Volume 7: Closing Time TP,*** collecting ***Hitman #s 51-60, Hitman/Lobo: The Stupid Bastich #1, JLA/Hitman #s 1 & 2,*** and a story from ***Superman 80-Page Giant #1.***
- ***Jack Kirby's Fourth World Omnibus Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***New Gods #s 7-10, Forever People #s 8-10, Jimmy Olsen #s 146-148,*** and ***Mister Miracle #s 7-9.***
- ***Mad Presents Batman #1,*** collecting the best *Mad* Batman parodies in one 80-page issue.
- ***Amazingly Stupid Mad,*** a new collection of irreverent humor from the Usual Gang of Idiots.
- ***OMAC Volume 1: OMACtivate TP,*** collecting ***OMAC #s 1-8.***



- ***Resurrection Man Volume 1: Dead Again TP,*** collecting ***Resurrection Man #s 1-7.***
- ***Showcase Presents Tales of the Unexpected Volume 1 TP,*** collecting the first twenty issues of the 1950s horror-suspense series.
- ***Superboy Volume 1: Incubation TP,*** collecting ***Superboy #s 1-7.***
- ***Supernatural: The Dogs of Edinburgh TP,*** collecting the six-issue miniseries.
- ***Swamp Thing Volume 1: Raise Them Bones TP,*** collecting ***Swamp Thing #s 1-7.***
- ***THUNDER Agents Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***THUNDER Agents Volume 2 #s 1-6.***
- ***World's Finest TP,*** collecting the miniseries by *Dave Gibbons, Steve Rude, & Karl Kesel.*

Coming Comics: Vertigo/DC in July

Skinner Sweet is back in *Scott Snyder & Rafael Albuquerque's* ***American Vampire #29.*** And he's hunting Hollywood vampires in 1954. But how did he survive the horrible events of Taipan back in WWII?

In *Scott Snyder & Dustin Nguyen's* ***American Vampire: Lord of Nightmares #2,*** Felicia Book reluctantly rejoins the vampire hunting agency known as the Vassals of the Morning Star. They have to track down the deadliest vampire of all time – but it's not an easy task...

One Sleeping Beauty, one prince of thieves and a small imp add up to one huge moving target for the Snow Queen in ***Fairest #5*** by *Bill Willingham, Phil Jimenez, & Andy Lanning.*

Sean Murphy offers a provocative look at religion, entertainment, and celebrity in ***Punk Rock Jesus #1,*** the kickoff issue of a five-part series that focuses on a reality show starring a clone of Jesus Christ. ***J2*** causes outrage and adulation. Religious zealots either love or hate the show, angry politicians worry about its influence on the nation, and members of the scientific community fear the implications of cloning a human being at all – let alone the Son of God. And what effect will this all have on Gwen, the young woman who is selected through an American Idol-style process to be the mother of the new Messiah? Witness it all through the eyes of Thomas McKael, the clone's bodyguard and a former IRA operative with a turbulent past who must protect the new Messiah – a baby who captivates the world, but grows up to become an angry teenager.

Jeff Lemire answers a lot of questions in ***Sweet Tooth #35*** as Dr. Singh arrives in Alaska and uncovers the origins of Gus and the hybrid children and the cause of the plague that decimated the world!

Vertigo collected editions (advance solicited for August and September release) include:

- ***100 Bullets Deluxe Edition Book 3 HC,*** collecting ***100 Bullets #s 37-57.***
- ***American Vampire Volume 4 HC,*** collecting ***American Vampire #s 19-27.***
- ***House of Mystery Volume 8: Desolation TP,*** collecting ***House of Mystery #s 36-42.***

Coming in August from DC Direct

Jim Maddox sculpts a striking rendition of Barbara Gordon's costumed alter-ego for the ***DC Comics Super-Heroes: Batgirl Bust.***

One of *Jim Lee's* earliest original creations is transformed into three dimensions by *Phil Ramirez* for the ***DC Comics Super-Heroes: Grifter Bust.***

DC continues it ***New 52 Action Figure*** line with the release of ***The Flash*** and ***Parademon*** action figures.

Dick Grayson's tenure as the Dark Knight is commemorated in the ***Dick Grayson as Batman Statue,*** designed by *Jock* and sculpted by *Mike Locascio.*

Before Watchmen is already one of 2012's biggest publishing events—and now it's going to be a major collectible event as well, thank to the line of ***Before Watchmen Statues*** that kicks off with *Jean St. Jean's* sculpt for the ***Rorschach Statue,*** a 10" tall sculpt.

Classic art by *Frank Miller* is the inspiration for *Derek Miller's* ***The Dark Knight Returns: Superman Vs. Batman Statue.***

Jim Lee's art is the inspiration for the ***Cover Girls of the DC Universe: Wonder Woman (DC Comics—The New 52) Statue.***

DC Direct's Ame-Comi line continues with the ***Ame-Comic Heroine Series Arisia PVC Figure,*** featuring the gorgeous Graxonite Green Lantern like you've never seen her before.

EPIC STORIES YOU CAN'T MISS!

THE NEW 52!

ANNUALS

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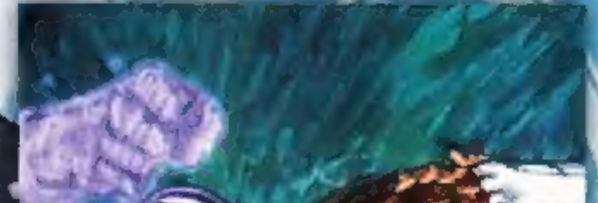
DISCOVER THE ORIGINS OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE RED, THE GREEN AND THE ROT!

WITNESS THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF MR. FREEZE!

BATMAN ANNUAL #1



THE FIRST CHAPTER OF "THE CULLING" CROSSOVER THAT CONTINUES SUPERBOY #9, LEGION LOST #9 AND TEEN TITANS #9

MAY 2012

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